

Multidisciplinary Perspectives, Experiences, and Knowledge Paths in the Representation of Cultural Landscapes

The built landscape, understood as a layered palimpsest of relationships between nature and human activities, is now one of the most complex and multidisciplinary fields of investigation in the international scientific landscape. The rapid, intertwined shifts reshaping our world – environmental upheavals, political dynamics, social changes, migrations due to numerous conflicts and the ongoing climate crisis, economic turbulence, and technological leaps – demand that we reimagine the very ways we describe, understand, and steward the spaces we inhabit and the landscape in which we live. All these instances, both material and immaterial, which find material expression in the multiple forms of anthropization of the landscape, and which derive from continuous modifications and transformations, can be included within the concept of cultural landscape (Niglio, 2023).

This definition has been established since 2000 by the European Landscape Convention (CoE, 2000),

subsequently strengthened by the UNESCO Conventions of 2003 and 2005 (UNESCO, 2003; 2005), and subsequently consolidated at the European and International levels (UNESCO, n.d.). Today, cultural landscape plays the role of a dynamic organism, as an expression of the social and cultural activities of a continuously evolving territory and represents the natural extension of the much better-known concept of cultural heritage. In this broader set, which includes everything that is the material and immaterial expression of human activity within its environmental context, research must necessarily put multidisciplinary knowledge into practice (Panagiotopoulos et al., 2023), and the challenges for its conservation become exponentially more complex (Singh & Niglio, 2023). This paradigm shift also necessarily modifies the way cultural heritage is documented, protected and valorized, although digital technologies represent a fundamental support in this regard (Luigini, 2019; Demetrescu et al., 2020).



Ilaria Trizio

First Researcher at the Institute for Construction Technology of the Italian National Research Council, in L'Aquila, where she is also head of the research team and of the "Inn. Res.Lab.: a distributed laboratory for the documentation, analysis, conservation, enhancement and regeneration of the built environment". Since 2018, she has been qualified as "Associate professor" in the sector CEAR-10/A - Drawing, according to the ASN 2016.



Francesca Savini

An archaeologist with a PhD in medieval archaeology, she is a researcher at the Institute for Construction Technology of the Italian National Research Council. Her research focuses on the knowledge and analysis of the historical built and archaeological heritage, integrating classical tools with new technologies. She works to define digital procedures for interpreting cultural heritage, managing data, and promoting heritage.



Michele Valentino

Associate Professor of Drawing (sector CEAR-10/A) at the University of Sassari, PhD in Architecture and Planning (2013). Visiting Researcher at Edinburgh College of Art (2012). His research focuses on architectural, urban, and territorial representation; he is the vice-coordinator of the PhD in Architecture and Environment.

Cultural heritage, especially in its less celebrated components –rural architecture, historic hydraulic infrastructure, small towns, and productive landscapes– is a privileged area for questioning strategies of knowledge, enhancement, and regeneration. Such strategies cannot be limited to formal conservation, but require visions capable of involving communities, activating processes of shared responsibility, and recognizing heritage as a dynamic element that generates meaning and prospects, implementing the principles of the Faro Convention (CoE, 2005; Pavan-Woolfe & Pinton, 2019). The design and application experiences highlight how the relationship between architecture and the natural environment can produce new balances and new forms of living. At a time when sustainability requires transcalar approaches (Ferretti et al., 2022; Goidea et al., 2022) and integrated interpretative models, this research proposes a concept of design as a sensitive practice, grounded in a deep understanding of contexts and respect for their specific characteristics.

The research project M.A.C.I.N.A. - Multilevel Application for Cultural Information Archives. A focus on the Inner Areas of Abruzzo and Sardinia regions, which involves the editors of this issue of DISEGNARECON, fits perfectly within this broader concept of cultural landscape. In it, the two territories under examination are analyzed to interpret changes in their river landscapes by examining artifacts built around them, through a multidisciplinary approach that considers the stratifications of historical, economic, social, and geomorphological events over time.

Against this background, the representation, in its many forms –from manual drawing to digital modelling, from perceptual mapping to geospatial analysis– emerges as an essential interpretative tool. It is not merely a descriptive practice, but an epistemological device that selects, highlights, interprets, and ultimately gives meaning to places. At the same time, the spread of advanced digital technologies –including GIS, BIM, HBIM, territorial and urban information models, immersive platforms, and monitoring and surveying systems– opens up new scenarios for the knowledge, management,

and communication of the cultural landscape. In this multi-objective and multi-level perspective, this issue of DISEGNARECON offers a collective reflection on permanence and transformation, focusing on methodologies and tools that convey the complexity, fragility, and value of the cultural landscape. The breadth of the contributions collected in this volume testifies to how representation has become a privileged terrain for comparison across disciplines, connecting the design dimension with the technological, cultural, and social dimensions. Here, digitization is conceived not as a purely technical process, but as an opportunity to redefine the paradigms of research and the modes of interaction between communities, institutions, and territories. The contributions collected show how integrating material, historical, and immaterial data enables a broader reading of landscapes, including their systemic, multilevel, and multisensory dimensions.

The issue is therefore the result of a multidisciplinary dialogue that spans research, technology, representation, and local culture. The variety of contributions reflects the theme's complexity and its obvious relevance. The hope is that this work will provide a valuable reference for scholars, professionals, and administrators engaged in the development of new forms of knowledge and the management of contemporary landscapes: landscapes that demand to be understood in their richness, accompanied in their fragility, and recognized for their intrinsic potential.

The collected contributions have been organized into three sections, presented below, ranging from theoretical and methodological essays aimed at representing the built landscape to hypotheses for the regeneration and valorization of cultural heritage, passing through digital applications for the representation and management of data and the built landscape in its broadest sense.

STUDIES AND RESEARCH ON THE REPRESENTATION OF THE BUILT LANDSCAPE

The representation of the built landscape remains a privileged terrain for understanding the

profound dynamics that govern the relationship between community, territory, and memory. The works gathered in this section trace, through diverse methods–manual drawing, photography, cartographic storytelling, and sensory exploration–how the landscape's visible outlines and hidden layers settle into both material and immaterial signs.

From agricultural landscapes to monumental cemeteries, from stratified urban configurations to inland territories, a clear awareness emerges: to represent means to select, interpret, and make shareable. These studies show how knowledge is a dynamic process, capable of restoring value even to marginal, seasonal, or transitory landscapes. The article *Drawing the Invisible: the manual representation of landscape in the work of three contemporary Italian architects* by Linda Flaviani, investigates the role of manual drawing as a cognitive device that reveals the most subtle perceptual structures of the landscape. Through an approach that favours slow observation and sensitive interpretation, the contribution shows how drawing extends perception, capable of restoring relationships, tensions, and atmospheric qualities that digital techniques cannot capture. The landscape, thus represented, is not a simple visual datum but a complex system of perceptual stimuli, memories, and stratifications. The work demonstrates the centrality of analogue methods in contemporary cognitive processes and their ability to produce interpretative representations useful for understanding territories in transformation.

The contribution *The representation of the orchard. Graphical analysis of the evolution of the horticultural landscape*, by Celia Chacon Carretone and Daniela Poli, examines how the horticultural landscape, understood as a complex cultural form, evolves through a careful graphic reading of its geometries and lasting structures. By documenting the orchard as a productive micro-landscape, historical maps, surveys, and compositional diagrams demonstrate how it preserves technical knowledge and agricultural practices that contribute to the making of the territory. Representation becomes a fundamental tool for

understanding the dynamics between continuity and change, highlighting the fragility and resilience of agricultural landscapes. The article also highlights the cultural value of these systems, often considered marginal, showing how their study can contribute to more informed protection and enhancement policies.

The article *Hypotesis on Transcribing Historical Sources to Represent the Evolution of Geo-cultural Landscapes: Natural Environment, Settlements, and Hazards*, by Silvia Rinalduzzi, Laura Farroni, and Matteo Flavio Mancini, proposes an innovative methodological approach to the representation of geocultural landscapes, understood as the outcomes of the profound interaction among the physical substrate, cultural practices, and local perceptions. Through cartographic tools, qualitative analysis, and iconographic synthesis, the contribution demonstrates how an integrated reading of the landscape can account for both material and immaterial values. The proposed methodology stands out for its ability to actively involve local communities in the construction of interpretative frameworks, enhancing the identity dimension of places. The result is a multilevel representation that becomes an operational tool for governance, planning, and enhancement projects.

The paper *Recoleta: the dual threshold between the city of stone, the represented city, and the digital city* by Giulia Porcheddu, Salvatore Barba, and Sandro Parrinello, analyses the Recoleta cemetery as a threshold space where three dimensions coexist: the material city, its representation, and its digital transposition. Through a critical journey between surveying, historical iconography, and digital modelling, the contribution shows how these funerary spaces are generators of cultural identity and devices of urban memory. The representation reveals the ambiguity of places that are at once architecture, symbolic landscapes, and digital artefacts, in which complex temporal and narrative stratifications coexist. The cemetery emerges as an interpretive laboratory capable of sparking new reflections on the relationship between collective memory, urban form, and contemporary representational techniques.

The article *Architecture as Experience: Reimagining Heritage Interpretation through Situated Perception. The Case of the Barcelona Pavilion*, by Queralt Garriga-Gimeno, reinterprets architecture as an experiential phenomenon, emphasizing the role of the body and perception in constructing the meaning of places. Through an analysis of the Barcelona Pavilion and a specially developed experiential guide, the contribution demonstrates how spatial narration can foster a deeper relationship with the architectural work. The focus shifts from abstract representation to embodied understanding: light, movement, rhythm, and matter become central elements of interpretation. The phenomenological perspective proposed constitutes an important counterpoint to purely informative approaches, suggesting a diffuse museography that reintegrates architecture into the everyday life of the city.

This article *Eternal stones, shifting light: Joaquín Sorolla's vision of Italy's built heritage*, by Josep Eixerés Ros, Hugo Barros Costa, and Pedro Molina-Siles, offers a reinterpretation of Joaquín Sorolla's Italian work as a cognitive device capable of restoring, through light, atmosphere, and perception, the cultural and temporal values of historical architecture. Painting thus becomes an interpretive tool for the built landscape, revealing its symbolic stratifications and the relationships among memory, ruin, and transformation.

This contribution *Gardens, horizons and perspectives. A situated ecofeminist turn in landscape and architectural representation: the UA Campus as a case study*, by Amelia Vilaplana de Miguel and María Elia Gutiérrez-Mozo, investigates the potential and limitations of forms of architectural representation through the case study of the University of Alicante Campus, bringing together graphic tools, spatial perception, and ecofeminist epistemologies. The research shows how representation can guide a more inclusive, sensitive, and multi-level reading of the built landscape.

This article *Tracing and Redrawing: Visual Strategies for Memory and Transformation in the Built Landscape*, by Patricia Fraile-Garrido and Ines Martin-Robles, explores the role of representa-

tion techniques –maps, collages, cartographic stratifications, speculative visualizations– as critical tools for restoring erased or marginalized urban memories. Through case studies in the United States, the research shows how drawing can become a practice of spatial justice, reconstructing otherwise invisible cultural palimpsests.

This contribution *Design Orientations for Knowledge, Representation, and Enhancement of Hydrosocial Landscapes*, by Gianvito Marino Ventura and Francesca Maria Ugliotti, explores hydro social landscapes as complex systems in which water, infrastructure, local communities, and environmental dynamics interact. The research proposes design guidelines based on a CIM approach that can integrate territorial data, surveys, and historical information. Water infrastructure is interpreted as an element of identity and as a design tool for addressing contemporary climate challenges. The article combines representation, knowledge, and design to present an innovative vision and propose strategies replicable in other mountain or river contexts.

The paper *When the intervention on defensive walls connects with the cultural landscape. The Aljafería in Zaragoza, Spain*, by Elisa Bailliet, examines the transformations of the Aljafería complex in Zaragoza during the 20th century, reconstructing criteria, tensions, and design choices related to conservation, reconstruction, and the relationship between the monument and its urban context. The analysis highlights how interventions on the built environment can redefine the cultural landscape and strengthen the relationship between architecture and territory.

The article *Inhabiting the productive landscape of Puglia. Masseria Pantano, Jazzo Pantano and Jazzo di Figlia in Alta Murge*, by Francisco Cotallo Blanco and Jesus De los Ojos Moral, proposes an integrated reading of the rural landscape of Puglia, in which GIS and BIM collaborate to represent and enhance traditional productive architectures. The research shows how the combination of the two tools can provide multiscale knowledge that relates individual buildings to their territorial

context. The contribution offers operational ideas for active conservation strategies for historic agricultural landscapes, highlighting how digitization can support not only documentation but also the design and planning of rural areas.

USE OF ICT FOR THE REPRESENTATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE ARCHITECTURE, LANDSCAPE AND MULTI-DATA

The digital transition profoundly redefines the methods of analysis, management, and communication of the built landscape. This section presents contributions that use GIS, remote sensing, 3D modelling, space syntax, and digital platforms to construct new cognitive scenarios. Technologies are not simply tools here: they constitute authentic operational epistemologies, capable of integrating heterogeneous data, highlighting hidden patterns, and supporting complex decisions. From mapping urban behaviour in sacred places to historical hydraulic infrastructures and the creation of digital museums, a rich and coherent range of methodologies emerges, opening up the landscape to new forms of interactive, multi-layered interpretation.

In this section, moreover, the contributions demonstrate advanced interoperability practices, with GIS, BIM, and CIM collaborating to build complex models that simultaneously represent geometric, historical, environmental, and functional data.

The experiences gathered here demonstrate how digital technology can become a common platform for interpreting territorial phenomena, enhancing productive landscapes, understanding water systems, documenting archaeological transformations, and supporting conservation strategies. This is the beating heart of innovation in built territories.

The paper *Multidisciplinary approach to analyse historical water infrastructures and urban transformations: the case study of the Grabiglione Barisano in the Sassi of Matera, Italy*, by Daniele Altamura, Enrico Lamacchia, Ruggero Ermini, Nicola Masini, and Antonella Guida, adopts a

multidisciplinary approach to analyse historical water infrastructures, integrating historical data, GIS, hydrology, and digital surveys. The contribution highlights the complexity of these systems, which are fundamental elements in the construction of cultural landscapes. When combined, digital tools identify configurations, functionalities, and vulnerabilities, providing a model that can be replicated in other contexts. The ability to integrate heterogeneous sources makes this study particularly relevant for contemporary planning, where water resource management requires a historical and systemic vision.

The article *Sacred Places in Network at the Heart of the City: Case of the Historic Core of El-Djazair Beni-Mazghana El-Mahroussa*, by Houria Bachakh and Mohammed Bakour, uses ArcGIS to map behavioural dynamics within networks of sacred sites, highlighting how people's behaviours contribute to the very definition of urban religious space. The contribution combines spatial data, ethnographic observations, and mobility models to construct a complex representation of ritual and symbolic relationships. The sacred landscape emerges as a dynamic system, influenced by collective and individual practices. The study offers a compelling example of how ICT can capture intangible dimensions that are difficult to represent with traditional tools.

The contribution *Digital Transformation of Architectural Legacy: Creating a Virtual Museum for preservation and dissemination*, by Anna Sanseverino, Carla Ferreyra, Victoria Ferraris and Luisa Smeragliuolo Perrotta, presents an advanced digital platform for the management of modern architectural heritage, based on CDE, BIM, VR, and digital twin. The proposal addresses heritage conservation and communication through immersive experiences, demonstrating how the virtual environment can serve as a direct interface with the built heritage. The article critically examines the advantages of using information models as dynamic archives and dissemination tools, highlighting the potential to create a widespread museum that transcends traditional use.

The contribution *From Representation to Partic-*

ipation: Generative AI as a Catalyst for Collaborative Design of the Built Environment, by Matteo Cavaglià and Lorenzo Ceccon, analyses the potential of generative artificial intelligence in participatory design processes, highlighting how these tools can increase accessibility, facilitate communication, and enhance citizens' contributions to the management of the built landscape. The integration of natural language and visual production thus opens up new co-design scenarios.

The paper *A Methodological Approach to Redefining Spatial Relations as a Result of Archaeological Excavations: Dara*, by Deryanur Simsek and Izzettin Kutlu, proposes an advanced digital reconstruction of the ancient city of Dara, integrating space syntax, 3D photogrammetry, and GIS. By analysing spatial transformations resulting from archaeological excavations, the contribution highlights how digital investigation can clarify settlement logic, pathways, spatial relationships, and stratigraphic changes. The model produced constitutes an interpretative platform capable of restoring an evolutionary picture that would otherwise be unattainable. The article demonstrates how ICT supports the management of archaeological heritage and offers a method transferable to contexts with similar complexities.

The paper *GIS-HBIM applications for the analysis and management of cultural landscapes: a case study of the historic centre of Tiradentes, Brazil*, by Isabela Cristina de Assis Berg, Pablo Ariel Escudero and Vanessa Borges Brasileiro, illustrates an integrated GIS-HBIM model for the management of cultural landscapes in historic centres. The research demonstrates how interoperability among urban, architectural, and territorial data enables a deeper understanding of the relationships among built fabrics, infrastructures, and material contents. HBIM is used not only for three-dimensional modelling but also as a semantic platform that can host historical, conservation, and functional information. The article highlights the crucial role of information systems as governance tools that support complex decision-making processes and enhance strategies in highly stratified contexts.

The contribution *BIM federated model for the regeneration of industrial archaeology buildings. The case study of the Tobacco Factory in Presenzano*, by Alessandra Avella, Mariateresa Guadagnuolo and Nicola Pisacane, develops a federated BIM model for the regeneration of industrial archaeology, addressing the challenges associated with the structural, material, and documentary complexity of large-scale buildings. The federation of models enables the coordinated management of information at different levels, facilitating dialogue among designers, administrations, and conservation operators. The work illustrates in detail the workflows adopted, the interoperability issues, and the potential of the shared data environment. The result is a robust management model that demonstrates the effectiveness of BIM as a platform for complex restoration projects, in which history, technology, and design must continuously interact.

STRATEGIES FOR THE REGENERATION AND ENHANCEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

The built landscape, with its tangible and intangible heritage, is now at the centre of a strategic rethinking that intertwines conservation, enhancement, development, and participation. The contributions collected address emblematic cases: from the regeneration of industrial archaeology to eco-cultural corridors, from the interpretation of minor historic centres to community rituals. Heritage functions as a complex system that we must govern by protecting it, activating it, making it accessible, and interpreting it. In this section, the theme of “transformative permanence” emerges strongly: the ability of heritage to change, while maintaining its meaning, when properly understood, documented, and integrated into contemporary planning.

The relationship between the natural environment and architecture is revealed here as a design horizon capable of combining sustainability, identity, and quality of space. The contributions show how integration can occur at different scales, from rural to river landscapes to protected areas and tra-

ditional agricultural territories.

Each article proposes a strong idea: architecture is not an element opposed to nature, but one of its possible languages. The balance between infrastructure, water systems, cultural landscapes, and human settlements provides the framework for a future consistent with environmental and social dynamics.

This contribution *Recognising landscape transformations: a minor historic centre as a palimpsest to investigate for enhancement strategies*, by Greta Montanari, Andrea Giordano, and Federica Maietti, analyses minor historic centres as stratified palimpsests, proposing a methodology of interpretation that integrates direct observation, representation, and analysis of transformations. The research highlights how knowledge of the built landscape cannot be separated from an understanding of the often slow but incisive forms of change that define its identity. The article emphasises the importance of perceptual sensitivity and community involvement in defining strategies for protection and enhancement.

The article *The Aniene River: an ecological and cultural corridor between the UNESCO World Heritage Sites of Rome and Tivoli*, by Flavia Marinos, presents an integrated vision of the Aniene River as an eco-cultural corridor between Rome and Tivoli, highlighting the role of historical infrastructure, architectural features, and ecological systems. The contribution highlights how the reconstruction of landscape continuity can serve as a large-scale enhancement strategy, connecting UNESCO sites, tourist routes, and environmental networks. The river emerges as a living cultural infrastructure, capable of guiding management projects and policies.

The paper *The Cemetery Landscape as a Complex Value. Understanding, Documenting, and Enhancing a Liminal Cultural Heritage*, by Valeria Menchetelli and Eleonora Dottorini, interprets the cemetery landscape as a space of identity in which memories, ritual, and architecture intertwine. The contribution emphasises that these places represent a heritage often overlooked but fundamental to understanding cultural and urban dynamics.

Thanks to a critical analysis and detailed representation of its constituent elements, the article proposes a revaluation of the funerary landscape as a cultural resource and potential project area. This contribution, *Mapping landscape qualities across the inner Bradano valley by integrating GIS and RS applications to support sustainable tourism strategies*, by Alessandro Scandiffio, presents an advanced methodology for interpreting the landscape by integrating GIS and multispectral remote sensing data, aiming to provide a dynamic map of the territory's aesthetic and functional qualities. The case study of the Bradano valley highlights how multitemporality and vegetation indices can become valuable tools for interpreting seasonality, ecological processes, and productive transformations. The work stands out for its ability to connect scientific analysis and landscape perception, offering a model that supports decisions on sustainable tourism and the enhancement of rural landscapes.

The article *Guardia Sanframondi Heritage between Narratives and Community Maps. An Application Model to represent the Italian Heritage of Inner Areas*, by Francesca Gasparetto, Giada Limongi, Ornella Zerlenga, Adriana Galderisi and Laura Baratin, presents a model of participatory representation of heritage in Italy's inland areas, based on the creation of territorial atlases and community maps. Through narratives, shared symbols, and GIS systems, the research shows how the involvement of inhabitants can yield practical tools for enhancing knowledge and managing the cultural landscape.

The article *Swedish harmony in the built landscape: integrating natural environment and architecture*, by Arianna Fonsati, analyses the Swedish model of integration between natural landscape and architecture, showing how cultural principles such as *friluftsliv* have influenced the construction of the territory. Through historical and contemporary examples, the contribution illustrates how materials, forms, and settlement strategies are conceived in close relation to the environment, contributing to the creation of balanced and sustainable inhabited landscapes.

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